



ACTIVE ASSAILANT

An Active Assailant refers to an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area. In most cases, active assailants use firearm(s) and have no pattern or method to their selection of victims, which creates an unpredictable and quickly evolving situation that can result in loss of life and injury. Other active assailant attack methods may also include bladed weapons, vehicles, and improvised explosive devices. Active shooters are considered active assailants.



HAS IT HAPPENED LOCALLY?

There has been one Active Assailant event in Howard County during the reviewed time period (1964-2019). A single assailant brought a concealed shotgun and several crude explosives into The Mall in Columbia on January 25th, 2014. The shooter opened fire in a second-story retail store, killing two employees, striking a third person in the foot, and ultimately taking his own life. The assailant did not know any of the victims prior to the attack.

WHAT IS THE ONGOING RISK?

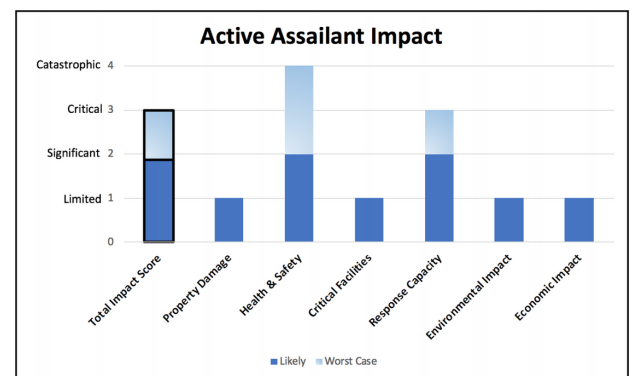
There is an expected 1-30% Chance of Annual Occurrence of an Active Assailant scenario in Howard County. In the most likely Active Assailant scenario, the Total Impact is considered Limited-Significant. In the worst-case scenario, the Total Impact is considered Critical.

DID YOU KNOW?

- 98% of Active Assailant incidents are carried out by a single assailant.
- Nearly half of Active Assailant scenarios occur in commercial facilities such as office buildings, factories, malls, or other retail locations. Another 29% of Active Assailant incidents occur in schools.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- [Howard County Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment](#)
- [U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security](#)
- [New York City Police Dept.](#)
- [Federal Bureau of Investigation](#)



Active Assailant Risk Profile				
LIKELIHOOD	Risk Assessment Category	Likely Hazard Scenario	Worst-Case Hazard Scenario	Weight
	Likelihood	2.75 Infrequent-Likely		50%
CONSEQUENCE	Impact	1.8 Limited-Significant	3 Critical	40%
	Warning Time	4 Short	4 Short	5%
	Duration	1 Short	1 Short	5%
TOTAL RISK SCORE		2.3	2.8	

